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DE RUEHNK #0022 0141334
ZNR UUUUU ZZH (CCY AD0DC796 WSC2784-695)
P 141334Z JAN 10
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9025
INFO RUCNMGH/MAGHREB COLLECTIVE
RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE
RUEHPS/AMEMBASSY PRISTINA
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 000022

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

C O R R E C T E D COPY CAPTION
E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL PGOV MR KV
SUBJECT: MAURITANIA RECOGNIZES KOSOVO

REF: A. 2009 STATE 94939
1B. 2009 NOUAKCHOTT 55
1C. 2009 NOUAKCHOTT 89
1D. 2009 NOUAKCHOTT 98

11. (SBU) The Kosovo Consulate in New York City received a diplomatic note dated January 12 stating that Mauritania has "recognized Kosovo as a sovereign and independent state and desires to establish relations at the Ambassadorial level."

12. (SBU) Post recently delivered two demarches to the Mauritanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs urging Mauritania to recognize Kosovo. The first one, in response to reftel, was delivered on September 15 to European Affairs Director Mohameden Ould Daddah, who provided no substantive response. Post followed up with Deputy Director of American and Asian Affairs Ba Samba Mamadou on January 5, who stated he would personally bring up the matter with Foreign Minister Naha Mint Mouknass. These demarches followed up on several others early in 2009 reported in REFTELS B - D.

13. (SBU) Mauritania is now the eighth African nation to recognize Kosovo along with Senegal, Burkina Faso, Liberia, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Comoros and Malawi.

BOULWARE